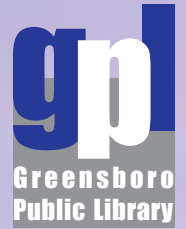




Greensboro Neighborhood Information Center

A service of the Greensboro Public Library

Serving the Needs of Greensboro's Neighborhoods With Materials, Programs & Resources



Glenwood - My Urban Oasis

A personal experience by Elizabeth Keathley

When I interviewed for a UNCG faculty position four years ago, my hosts took me for a drive through the different neighborhoods of Greensboro, and Glenwood immediately caught my fancy: the charming bungalows and occasional Queen Anne; the imaginative and somewhat bohemian aspect of the gardens; the tree-lined streets with sidewalks, granite curbs, and brick gutters; and especially the diversity of neighbors I saw walking and bicycling made Glenwood seem like the perfect setting for my new home. I was determined to find living quarters close enough that I could bicycle or walk to work, and I quickly found a wonderful 1928 bungalow exactly one and a half miles from the School of Music, where I soon started my wonderful new job.

Not only did my new house have all the classic bungalow features—built-in cabinets, wood floors, distinctive windows—and plenty of them!—it also looked strikingly like a house I lived in as an infant. I don't remember that house, but I have seen pictures of my mother standing in front of it, holding a baby with a big nose, who happens to be me. That house was in a neighborhood of South Central Los Angeles, which was once very much like Glenwood, but is now part of a notoriously desolate urban landscape.

As I began to meet my neighbors (walking to work makes this pretty easy) and to explore my new neighborhood, I found more Glenwood wonders, like the creek that traverses the neighborhood, straddled by occasional pocket parks, a number of beautiful churches, and the little business district on Grove Street. But I also learned that certain spots in Glenwood have some problems: condemned and boarded houses; deteriorating dwellings with ill-kept yards; litter and abandoned cars; some drugs and prostitution—the kinds of problems that betray lack of ownership, a sense that no one is watching and nobody cares. Compounding these factors are a rapid loss of tree canopy and a growing number of inappropriate infill construction projects. It was a development issue that drew me into the Glenwood Neighborhood Association about a year ago, and here I have found a community of people who are also passionate about our urban oasis. The association gives us a means to address the complex problems that neighborhoods face these days, a vehicle for organizing projects, a conduit for communication, and source of community strength.

During the short time I have been involved with the Glenwood Neighborhood Association, we have resuscitated our Neighborhood Watch program and received grants to help revitalize our Grove Street business district. A grant from the



Greensboro Beautiful Neighborhood Initiatives Program has financed decorative planters to beautify the Grove Street business district, and a grant from Building Stronger Neighborhoods will help with the implementation of our plan to revitalize that retail area. The plan was developed as a demonstration project in collaboration with The Institute for Cultural Affairs. Through this plan, we hope to bring more businesses to Grove Street, for example, to replace the grocery and café formerly located there, and to support Grove Street projects like the youth programs at "Facts for Life." We were also fortunate to receive the help of a grant from NeighborWoods (a joint project of Greensboro Beautiful and the City of Greensboro), which enabled us to plant seventy-five trees in the neighborhood. Maybe more importantly, we've had several terrific social events, such as the Grove Street Festival and Neighbors' Night Out, where neighbors shared food and fellowship.

One crucial factor in the growing numbers and effectiveness of our neighborhood association has been the wisdom,

Continued on page 3 - See "Oasis"

Greensboro Neighborhood Congress Continues To Grow



Founded in 2003, the Greensboro Neighborhood Congress (GNC) is a non-profit citywide alliance of neighborhood organizations seeking to improve the quality of life in Greensboro. GNC addresses issues of importance to neighborhoods and empowers residents to resolve neighborhood-specific concerns. In just three years, GNC has experienced tremendous organizational growth and contributed greatly to Greensboro's social capital. Today, GNC's membership includes organizations representing 41 diverse neighborhoods all over Greensboro: Adams Farm, Ardmore Park, Beechcroft, Benbow Park, Bluford Park, Charles B. Aycok, Claremont Courts, College Hill, Dudley Heights, East Hunter Hills, Eastside Park, Fisher Park, Gate Ridge, Glenwood, Greenfield, Heath Park, Hope Valley, Jonesboro/Scott, Joyce Street, Kings Forest, Lindley Park, Nealtown Farms, North O'Henry Oaks, Old L. Richardson, Old Asheboro Street, Penrose Estates, Penry Road, Poplar Ridge, Ray Warren Homes, Sedgfield Lakes, Smith Homes, Oaks West, Hickory Trace, Sunset Hills, Valleywood, Van Pine Holden, Westbury, Westerwood, Wilcox, Woodbriar Estates, and Woodmere Park. (These neighborhoods are home to more than 15,000 households.)

Many other neighborhoods have participated in some fashion in GNC activities but are not yet represented by an organization that has applied for GNC membership. GNC's Membership Committee remains active in getting other neighborhoods involved and hopes that organizations representing another ten neighborhoods will submit membership applications in 2006.

One of the driving forces for GNC from its inception has been a feeling among neighborhood leaders that City decision-making has been driven by interests not necessarily consistent with neighborhood interests. Although a coalition existed to advocate for the interests of the real estate development industry (TREBIC), no organization existed to represent the interests of neighborhoods. Also,

GNC's founding members believed that neighborhood leaders had much to learn from each other, and could advocate more effectively for neighborhood interests by working together as a group.

The funding to make possible many of GNC's early efforts came from the Building Stronger Neighborhoods (BSN) Coalition of private foundations. GNC has worked closely with the City of Greensboro on a number of initiatives. However, GNC has maintained complete independence from the City in its funding and governance.

Many of GNC's efforts during its first two years of existence were focused on the development of an organizational structure allowing for GNC to function effectively as a representative body. Neighborhood organizations apply to GNC for recognition and membership based on the geographic boundaries of the areas they represent. Depending on the size of the represented neighborhood, each organization may have one to three representatives who may vote at monthly meetings.

Current GNC member organizations include neighborhood associations, homeowners associations, and crime watch groups. GNC is led by an Executive Committee, comprised of GNC officers, committee chairs, and one representative from each of the four quadrants of the City. GNC also took steps in its first few years of existence to incorporate as a North Carolina non-profit corporation and to secure 501(c)(3) status from the Internal Revenue Service.

Another major focus of GNC during its early years was to organize Greensboro's first citywide neighborhood summit (Neighborhood Matters!) in October, 2003. Held at the Greensboro Coliseum the summit offered participants a choice of workshops as well as general sessions designed to provide information neighborhood leaders could use for improving their communities. The city also partici-



A Meeting of the Greensboro Neighborhood Congress

Greensboro Neighborhood Congress (Continued)

pated in the Summit by setting up a mini town hall with booths that featured the various city departments. The Summit culminated in a panel discussion with City Council members.

Many of GNC's ongoing activities fall into two categories: advocacy and training. GNC advocacy issues include: building code enforcement, zoning enforcement, adoption of rental housing standards, inspection of rental properties, surface water management, City funding for neighborhood-initiated beautification and improvement projects, park use policies, developer/neighborhood communications, outdoor advertising, noise ordinance enhancement and enforcement, and crime prevention and awareness.

GNC representatives have also been appointed to a number of City and civic committees as advocates for neighborhood interests. Committees that met during 2005 include: the Strategic Planning Committee for the Greensboro Partnership; the Landscape Ordinance Revision Committee; the Land Development Ordinance (LDO) Citizens Advisory Committee; the RUCO (rental housing inspection) Committee; the IPMC (new building code) Committee; the Truth and Reconciliation Selection Committee; the Neighborhoods Small Projects Program; the Greensboro Beautiful Neighborhood Initiatives Program; the housing improvements initiatives; and the Committee of 100.

Topics on which GNC has offered training to neighborhood leaders include: zoning, grant writing, diversity and racism, organizational leadership, building code/local ordinance enforcement, facilitation skills, and as-

sets based community development. GNC also helped the City's TV station (Channel 13) produce a video about Greensboro neighborhoods and the issues they face. GNC also produced a public Neighborhood Forum that was broadcast on Channel 13. Guest speakers who have come to GNC meetings to discuss issues with neighborhood leaders include the City's Chief of Police, the County's Director of Emergency Management, the City's Zoning Administrator, the City's Urban Forester, the Director of the City's Planning Department, and the Chief of the Fire Department. GNC has also had presenters on substandard housing and housing studies, walking programs, and animal control.

GNC is now involved in a planning process to help direct the organization's growth in the coming years. Topics of focus for GNC in 2006 and beyond are likely to include: seeking consistency in City decision making, promoting neighborhood recognition, developing neighborhood identities, and ensuring that the Development Ordinance re-write ("LDO" effort) is neighborhood-friendly. GNC representatives are now working to organize City Council district forums and a zoning issues workshop during 2006. GNC representatives also hope to address the City Council's failure to adopt the enhanced noise ordinance that was drafted by the City Attorney's office.

Anyone with questions about GNC membership should contact Gail Barger, Chair of GNC's Membership Committee, at 274-782; gailsbells@bellsouth.net or Donna Newton, Congress Advisor, 851-2848; bdnewt@yahoo.com.

Oasis - Continued from page 1

compassion, and support of Donna Newton. In her capacity as the Consulting Coordinator of the Greensboro Neighborhood Information Center, Donna has been our guiding light, sounding board and mentor. In my experience, it is rare for a person with so much business savvy also to care as much about individuals and neighborhoods as Donna does. She has helped us find grants and expertise, directed us toward opportunities for leadership training, taken an interest in all of our endeavors, and helped us learn how to be better neighbors to each other. We are very grateful to have her as a resource and as an ally. Presently Donna is helping us find the resources to create a neighborhood comprehensive plan, which will be key for Glenwood's future success.

Development continues to be the biggest challenge facing Glenwood—how to rationalize it, make it sustainable and inclusive, and make it meaningful for our present and future neighbors. Unattractive dwellings, cheaply made and quick to deteriorate, generate profits for exploitive developers, but diminish our green spaces, damage neighborhood aesthetics,

and defeat our efforts to promote ownership and pride. On the other hand, we welcome developers with imagination and community awareness: for them there are good redevelopment opportunities in our beautiful, traditional neighborhood. As our neighborhood historian Lynn Parrish has pointed out, many of the newest, smartest, most award-winning developments nationwide are based on concepts from traditional neighborhoods like Glenwood, including neighborhood layout for connectivity, car-less transportation options, preservation of green space, a variety of quality-built housing, and compatible businesses accessible to pedestrians. Bad development has long-term consequences, not merely for aesthetics, but also for blighting factors, like crime and neglect. My hope is that, as we move toward developing a neighborhood comprehensive plan, we can attract the right kind of development so that, rather than go down the path of my childhood neighborhood in South Central Los Angeles, Glenwood can realize its full potential as an urban oasis.

Greensboro Neighborhood Information Center

2005 Achievements

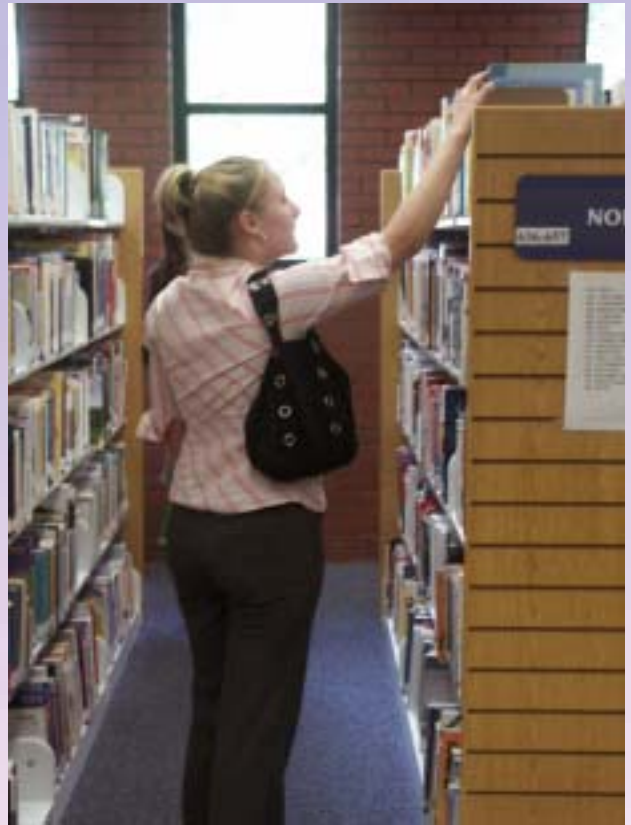
The Greensboro Neighborhood Information Center (GNIC) is made possible by the Building Stronger Neighborhoods Coalition. The goal of the GNIC is to know and serve the needs of Greensboro's neighborhoods with materials, programs and resources. We accomplish this goal by establishing and maintaining close relationships with neighborhood leaders and organizations and responding to their expressed needs.

Greensboro Neighborhood Information Center Methods:

- Consulting, networking, coaching and leadership training.
- Programming, training, networking and advocacy for neighborhoods through The Greensboro Neighborhood Congress.
- Training through The Chavis Service Area Roundtable.
- Email distribution of neighborhood related announcements.
- Website with links to neighborhood related sites and a Greensboro Neighborhood Directory.
- “Dear Neighbors” web log featuring neighborhood related announcements and information.
- Reference Materials offered at the Glenwood Branch Library.

Services Provided by the Greensboro Neighborhood Information Center:

- Met with leadership in specific neighborhoods and assisted with organizing, planning, writing bylaws, conflict resolution and connecting with people.
- Supported and advised the Greensboro Neighborhood Congress and their committees.
- Facilitated meetings between neighborhood leaders, city management and elected officials.
- Participated in neighborhood related agency/ organization/committee meetings.
- Assisted with development of procedures for the city's Neighborhoods Small Projects Program and the Greensboro Beautiful Neighborhood Initiatives Program.
- Promoted participation in Small Projects, Neighborhood Initiatives, Neighborwoods Program and Building Stronger Neighborhoods grants programs.
- Provided neighborhood leadership workshops.
- Facilitated neighborhood organization training workshops for current and future Habitat residents.
- Facilitated Chavis Service Area Neighborhood Roundtable Seminars.
- Recruited neighborhood leader participants in city wide initiatives related to neighborhood issues.
- Maintained the Greensboro Neighborhood Directory.
- Added the Neighborhood Funding Section to the Neighborhood Toolbox.
- Authored an article on observations about the challenges and achievements of neighborhoods throughout Greensboro.
- Reviewed neighborhood related materials for the Resource Center at the Glenwood Library.
- In 2005 more than 6000 emails of neighborhood related information were sent to GNC participants, individual neighborhood leaders, agency representatives, city personnel and elected officials.
- Provided information and counseling through an estimated 700 calls with and on behalf of neighborhoods.
- Recruited neighborhoods for walking programs.



Results of Greensboro Neighborhood Information Center Efforts:

Some of the results of our work are tangible and others are more subjective. Collaboration with nonprofit organizations and among neighborhoods is the key to all that we accomplish:

- More neighborhoods are organizing and improving their existing organizations.
- Neighborhood leaders are taking the information and skills they acquire back to their neighborhoods.
- Neighborhood leaders are connecting and using one another for support.
- Neighborhood organizations are participating in the Greensboro Neighborhood Congress (GNC).
- Neighborhood leaders of different socio-economic groups and races are coming together and working for a common good.
- Neighborhood leaders are learning that the issues important to them are citywide and not just specific to their neighborhoods.
- Neighborhood leaders are participating in the initiatives of non-profit organizations to address citywide issues.
- Neighborhood leaders are beginning to believe that they have a voice and can make a difference in their neighborhoods and in the city.
- City personnel, elected officials and non-profit agencies have begun to seek the input from neighborhood organizations through the GNIC and the GNC.
- Resources for neighborhood organizations are increasing.
- Neighborhood leaders are using the leadership coaching resources.
- Leaders are managing initiatives within their neighborhoods to help residents feel safe, empowered and appreciated.



Neighborhood Resources Can Be Found At The Glenwood Branch Library



Donna D. Newton
Consultant Coordinator
Greensboro Neighborhood
Information Center
851-2748 or 202-4309
bdnewt@yahoo.com



Neighborhoods and Organizations Assisted by the GNIC during 2005

In this annual issue of *Neighbor to Neighbor*, we are featuring a number of the neighborhoods and organizations that we have worked with in 2005. Much of what we do in the Greensboro Neighborhood Information Center is reflected in the achievements of these neighborhoods and organizations.



Cedar Street Residents This diverse downtown Greensboro community is rich in creativity and strong common values. The Cedar Street residents recently initiated neighborhood meetings; worked on a community position regarding the sale of key property within the neighborhood; and began forming a neighborhood vision and mission. This year offers the opportunity to develop a solid organization, become recognized as an organized entity, and influence future development within their neighborhood.

Dudley Heights Neighborhood Association Dudley Heights is a comfortable community dating back to the 1950s. Many of the original residents still remain. Since reorganizing in June 2004, the neighborhood association meetings have been consistently well attended. Through a planning session this past year, the association was able to match the community's concerns with their resources and from that they formed Beautification and Safety committees to address their concerns. The association's Night Out program in 2005 was made possible with a grant from BSN and was quite successful with more than 200 attendees. Many of the senior residents strive to remain healthy by staying active and walking regularly with the neighborhood walking group. The leader of this group also organized a neighborhood team that participated in the First Annual Asthma Walk which raised \$350 for that good cause. Currently, several of the residents serve as volunteer grandparents at Bluford Elementary School, forming an excellent partnership for continued growth and development in this dynamic neighborhood. Looking to the future, the association is involved in an ongoing campaign to increase participation in the neighborhood meetings and they are working hard to build and maintain a viable block captain network to connect all of the 300+ households.



Eastside Park Through collaborations with numerous non-profit organizations and the city, this comfortable, tight knit neighborhood has been transformed from what was once a crime ridden, drug infested, dangerous location, to a safe, livable, prosperous and lovely community. During 2005, Eastside Park retained a very effective manager for their community center who has brought in a number of programs for all residents, with emphasis on activities for the youth and the seniors. Some of the key programs that have been added at the center this past year include a Kids Café, which provides 3 nutritious, balanced meals a week for the youth who are participating in the homework, help and tutoring program. The café is made possible through collaboration with Second Harvest Food Bank and Harris Teeter. The homework program is offered through collaboration with several local churches. Youth also have access to several donated computers and the **Success Maker** program. This software provides the means for youth to self-tutor for EOG tests and was provided by the Guilford County Education Alliance. Current management has also supported the revitalization of the Community Teen Council that is now thriving with a large group of regular participants.



Seniors are important to the Eastside community. The seniors are meeting twice a week at the Center to play board games and socialize. The group also goes out to eat and visits residents of local nursing homes.

Other new programs include a sewing class that's conducted by a skilled seamstress. The center also offers an aerobics class twice each week. The volunteer aerobics class leader is a landlord, but not a resident of the neighborhood. Residents also walk regularly with the neighborhood walking group.

This vibrant community's primary goal for 2006 is to see a Second Chance House built and occupied on property at the entrance to the community. It is being made possible through collaboration with the city and the YWCA. Another important goal is to get parents more involved with their children through parent/child programs to be offered at the Community Center in collaboration with UNCG.

Gate Ridge Community Watch This tight knit, working class and increasingly diverse community has accomplished a great deal over a short period of time. This past year, they developed bylaws and strengthened their board with the addition of neighbors who have strong skills and commitment. The group worked closely with the police department in successful efforts to make the neighborhood safe again. Within the last 18 months have they managed to rid the neighborhood of most of the drug dealing and other criminal activities. They also developed a strong working relationship with ordinance enforcement and eliminated unsightly junk including abandoned vehicles from the neighborhood. Their successful efforts have revitalized their residents' sense of community. There is a noticeable improvement in lawn maintenance and more people are coming out of their houses and enjoying the improvements within the neighborhood. Gate Ridge Community Watch also established a regular walking group and held a successful Night Out with almost the entire neighborhood participating. The group has also begun publishing a regular newsletter.



The Gate Ridge goals for 2006 include reapplying for neighborhood signage through the city's Small Projects Program; applying for a Neighborhood Initiatives grant from Greensboro Beautiful to beautify public spaces and using the Building Stronger Neighborhoods (BSN) grant they just received to bring the community closer through social and community watch activities. This community will continue their diligence in enforcing ordinances, and most importantly, they will work together to prevent additional up-zoning within the neighborhood. They also plan to network with surrounding neighborhoods.



Gramercy Park Community Watch This diverse community on the outskirts of Greensboro initiated neighborhood meetings; selected their leaders; started writing bylaws; started a crime watch program and held their first Night Out event with more than 100 residents in attendance. They also initiated communications with the existing homeowners' association. Goals for 2006 include solidifying their organization and establishing a positive working relationship with the homeowners' association.

Habitat Neighborhoods Habitat enhanced their training for future and current residents with the addition of neighborhood organization workshops. During 2006, they will be exploring participation in a project to bridge cultural gaps within communities and they will

continue to strengthen their neighborhood organization workshops.

Westbury Neighborhood Organization Westbury is a neighborhood of 265 attractive late 1960s houses located just inside southeast Greensboro. This community has worked hard in 2005 to strengthen its neighborhood association. They developed bylaws and used their board in more effective ways during 2005 and they generally have 30 or more residents in attendance at their monthly meetings. The association recently built relationships with new animal control management and resolved major animal control issues within their community. They also worked with police to reduce speeding on community streets and they addressed zoning and code ordinance violations throughout the neighborhood. The neighborhood also established a regular walking group and conducted a community clean up campaign. Neighborhood beautification is a major thrust for Westbury in 2006, as well as continued efforts to enforce code ordinances.



The **Greensboro Neighborhood Information Center** is privileged to support these and other Greensboro neighborhoods. If you have an interest in talking with the leaders of any of these neighborhoods, please contact Donna Newton at 851-2748 or bdnewt@yahoo.com.



Building Stronger Neighborhoods Grants – 2005

Listed below are the neighborhood grants provided by BSN during 2005. BSN is pleased to support Greensboro neighborhoods as they mobilize assets to enhance their communities and quality of life.

Rosewood Neighborhood Association	Spring Fling Celebration	\$2,400
Stoneridge Resident Council	Community Events and Activities	\$2,000
Bluford Park Community Association	National Night Out Activities and Community Building	\$800
Dudley Heights Neighborhood Association	Association Membership Development	\$3,000
Gateway Plaza Resident Council	Community Events and Activities	\$3,000
Glenwood Neighborhood Association	Community Events and Activities	\$3,000
Hampton Homes Resident Council	Girl Scout Troop Start-Up Funding	\$1,250
Lakespring Court Resident Council	Community Events and Activities	\$1,500
Ray Warren Homes Resident Council	Community Events and Activities	\$500
Silver Briar Resident Council	Community Events and Activities	\$500
Old L. Richardson Neighborhood Watch	Newsletter and Flyers	\$650
Gate Ridge Community	Beautification Project & Community Events	\$600
Smith Homes Resident Council	Teen Summit and Domestic Violence Workshops	\$3,000

The Greensboro Neighborhood Information Center is available to assist you in requesting a BSN grant for your neighborhood.



Building Stronger Neighborhoods - Grant Application Schedule

Below is the 2006 schedule for BSN grant applications. The due date is the date that the application must be received by the BSN grants office at the Community Foundation. The workshop date is the date that a helpful workshop on applying for a BSN grant will be held. Workshops are held at the Glenwood Branch Library. The notification date is the date applicants will be notified about the decision on their application. (Funds are not actually received on the notification date.) Call Melissa Johnson at 379-9100 with any questions.

<u>Due Date</u>	<u>Workshop Date</u>	<u>Notification Date</u>
Friday, April 28 at 5:00 pm	Tuesday, April 6 at 6:30 pm	End of June
Monday, July 31 at 5:00 pm	Thursday, July 13 at 6:30 pm	End of September
Tuesday, October 31 at 5:00 pm	Thursday, October 19 at 6:30 pm	End of December

City Improves Customer Service

The City of Greensboro has made major improvements in its customer service and interactive communications with the public. The following is a summary of new or improved means to access City information and service.

The Contact Center, (336) 373-CITY (2489) Ten representatives (three of whom are bilingual in English and Spanish) are available Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 6:00 pm to answer questions via telephone, e-mail or in person. Representatives have a depth of knowledge which helps departments communicate with each other and with the public for coordinated response. For example, when a new resident calls in for solid waste cans to be delivered to their residence, the representative will check to see if they have made arrangements to have water service started. The center is located on the plaza level of the Melvin Municipal Office Building, 300 W. Washington Street in downtown Greensboro. A TDD line is available at (336) 333-6930, and the City also employs the services of the Language Line, which offers telephone-based translation services for over 150 languages.



The City website - www.greensboro-nc.gov Redesigned using new technology, the streamlined site features a consistent design that is easy to navigate—as well as a Google search engine. The new site categorizes information for residents, businesses and visitors. In addition, the site is accessible to those with special needs. The City of Greensboro's website is a secure site and is constantly updated. Personal information is not captured (although e-mails fall under the public records laws).

Council Meetings On-Line With new video streaming capabilities, you can now view Council meetings while they are being conducted or at your convenience even if you do not have access to Government Access Channel 13. Just go to our website.



Government Access Channel 13 Recent enhancements include a new messaging system which allows for multiple messages onscreen in a simple and attractive format. "Infocaster" uses a "crawl" along the bottom of the screen to provide weather and emergency information. Information and messages that are time sensitive or urgent are *supplemented with audio* for the visually impaired or special needs population of Greensboro. City Council meetings are broadcast live on the first and third Tuesdays of each month beginning at 5:30 pm.

Community Relations Team This team is comprised of three staff members who visit neighborhoods and associations to work on community issues and make sure each voice is heard. The team works with several Greensboro agencies (including FaithAction, Lutheran Family Services, and United Way) to make sure Greensboro residents,

including those from other cultures, have easy access to City services. In collaboration with the Contact Center and other departments, Community Relations strives to see the "big picture" and to note trends and needs in the community which may require changes in how business is done.

Use the tools the City of Greensboro has provided for you! Call, write or visit when you have a question or concern about City services.

Contact Center (336) 373-CITY
Community Relations (336) 373-2723

Channel 13 (336) 333-6922
City Website (336) 373-2337

cogcontactctr@greensboro-nc.gov
donna.gray@greensboro-nc.gov
andrea.turner@greensboro-nc.gov
cathy.justice@greensboro-nc.gov
jim.collins@greensboro-nc.gov
jonathan.davis@greensboro-nc.gov





Greensboro Housing Coalition

Advocating for decent housing for low and moderate income people and those with special needs.

The Greensboro Housing Coalition is a referral, informational, and educational organization dedicated to giving information about:

- Where to find emergency shelter, rental housing, or housing with support services.
- What to do when you are about to be evicted or face foreclosure.
- How to get legal help if you face housing discrimination.
- How to get your landlord to make repairs.
- How to buy your first home.
- Where to get help with housing expenses in a crisis.

Our community needs a wide variety of housing opportunities, from emergency shelters to homeownership, with smooth access from one to the next. The Greensboro Housing Coalition provides the information, education, and cooperation that people need to climb the ladder — or to keep from falling off!

Housing conditions and affordability make a dramatic difference in neighborhood stability and quality of life. Deteriorating housing and foreclosures depress neighborhoods—as well as disrupting the school achievement and work productivity of the owners and tenants.

Several major initiatives are underway in 2006 that will promote safe, affordable housing.



Exploring strategies to reduce unsafe housing:

- Promote maintenance of housing in safe condition
- Prevent delays in repairing housing units when they fall below minimum standards or have lead hazards which put young children at risk

Implementing priorities from the following plans:

- Comprehensive Plan for reclaiming vacant housing and increasing housing options
- Consolidated Plan for revitalizing neighborhoods, promoting homeownership and rental housing for the homeless and special needs citizens
- Comprehensive Housing Study done by Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro

Goals for Homeless Prevention Coalition of Guilford County and the taskforce to end homelessness appointed by the mayor and county commission chair:

- A homeless count to measure needs
- Create a network of existing housing/service programs
- Create new programs to address the gaps

Developing additional housing options:

- Affordable homeownership
- Affordable rentals
- Special needs housing (especially homeless teens)

To learn more about these initiatives, call 691-9521 or visit www.greensborohousingcoalition.com.

Fighting Substance Abuse In Our Community

Neighborhoods throughout Guilford County have substance abuse problems. Many citizens are addicted to tobacco, alcohol, or illegal drugs like crack cocaine and heroin, and many more people are affected because they have loved ones who use drugs. Here are a few facts that you may not be aware of:

- More than 60% of those surveyed in the Guilford County jails said that they have substance abuse problems.
- -88.5% of those said that they were in jail on substance abuse related arrests.
- The rate of increase in drug arrests since 2001 has been more than double the state rate.
- Among youth, the use of alcohol and tobacco has increased, but the perception of risk of this use has gone down.
- Guilford County currently has only one treatment facility for women with children and only one resident facility for adolescents.

The Guilford County Substance Abuse Coalition was created to help develop a better system for preventing and treating substance abuse. The vision of the Coalition is to have an easily accessible system that meets the needs of a diverse population. The organization has 114 participants representing substance abuse prevention, treatment and aftercare agencies, governmental departments, law enforcement, foundations, clergy, other non-profits and individuals.

The mission of the Coalition is to bring together the provider community and Guilford County residents to develop a partnership through advocacy, education, collaboration, and support of best practice principles to effectively address substance abuse. The key to accomplishing this mission is the involvement and support of the whole community. The Coalition needs participation from all sectors of the community to join together to address this issue.

For more information on how you can become a part of the Coalition, please call George Coates, Executive Director at (336) 288-9774 or by email at gcsac@bellsouth.net.



UNC Center for Community Research

A Partnership Between the Greensboro Area Health Education Center
and the UNC Program on Ethnicity, Culture and Health Outcomes

Some residents are concerned that their neighborhoods do not have equal access to quality medical care. Established in 2004, the UNC Center for Community Research at the Greensboro Area Health Education Center (AHEC) brings community members and UNC-Chapel Hill faculty and students together to address health disparity issues deemed as important in underserved communities. The Center is currently facilitating three community health projects within the Greensboro AHEC region, which covers Alamance, Caswell, Chatham, Guilford, Orange, Montgomery, Randolph, and Rockingham Counties.

The African American Families and Children Together project (AAFACT) is one community-based project being conducted in the Greensboro area that aims to understand how African American single mothers best raise strong, healthy children. The project is researching how extended family plays a role in single-mother homes and in the health of the children. The long-term goal is to explore the feasibility of family-based health programming that includes extended family members.

The Center is also working with the Greensboro Health Disparities Collaborative under the leadership of the Partnership Project in Greensboro and United Voices of Efland-Cheeks in Efland to address cancer health disparities. Addressing cancer health disparities is one of the Center's major focus areas. With funding through the National Cancer Institute, the Center along with other community and institutional partners will undertake initiatives in the region to improve access to and utilization of beneficial cancer interventions among adult African Americans. This special initiative known as the Carolina Community Network (CCN) will take place over the next five years.

If you are interested in learning more about the AAFACT project and how you can participate as a single mother or a community organization, contact: Brandolyn White, MPH, Community Outreach Specialist, (336) 832-8045, brandolyn.white@mosescove.com.



A Friend to Neighborhoods Retires

Art Davis, a 35 year veteran with the City of Greensboro retired from the Planning Department at the end of November, 2005. For all of Art's working career, he was the best friend of Greensboro neighborhoods. Art has promised to continue to be involved with neighborhoods, so in the end, Greensboro can hold on to the benefit of Art's experience and being. True to his promise, he is still attending Greensboro Neighborhood Congress meetings and has recently agreed to act as an area representative on the Executive Committee.

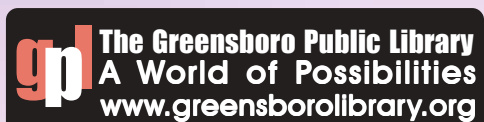


Save The Date - Community Health Forum

Bring your whole family and enjoy food, fun and facts about Health! The forum will feature How-to Sessions on Healthy Meal Planning, Walking Clubs, Indoor Physical Activity Ideas, Aerobics, Dancing, Jump Rope and more! Sponsored by the Moses Cone ~ Wesley Long Community Health Foundation. Call Antonia Monk Reaves for more information at 832-9555.



Community Health Forum • Barber Park • Saturday, May 13, 2006 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm



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